

Portuguese Laborers for the Gold Mines of the Transvaal



GROWING COTTON IN SOUTH AFRICA

(Continued From First Page.)

lives, and they are forced to do as it says. We are now paying about \$3.30 per month for a room. We have taken this over to the company, and it allows the man \$3 and takes the 30 cents as its commission. That is the way all labor is furnished here. We have now 150 men in the fields, and we get them all from the company. If a man shirks or refuses to work, we send him to the military commandant for punishment, and if he will not work after that he is put in jail, and another man is sent in his place. "What punishments are used in such cases?"

The most common one is slapping the man on the head with a web strap, which sucks up the skin. The suction is like that of a piece of leather pressed against a flat stone. It is very painful, but it does not leave a mark. It is up for more than a day or so at a time. "What hours do your men work?"

From sunrise to sunset. They work hard, and I should say they are good hands in the cotton fields as our negroes at home. They are much like our negroes, but they are on the whole better formed and, if anything, more muscular.

Portuguese for African Mines.

Portuguese East Africa is now one of the chief sources of the labor supply for the mines of the Transvaal. Before the Chinese were imported four-fifths of the negro workmen were brought in from the outside, and mostly from this region. The suction paid about \$3 a head to the Portuguese authorities. Within the past year it has been decided that the Chinese must be sent back home as soon as can be, and a large number of natives will be required to take their places. There are white labor contractors now going through Portuguese East Africa and British Central Africa looking up men to work in the gold mines.

We took a great gang of such laborers on the ship at Chinde, the chief port for Mozambique, as we came down the coast to Beira. The landing there is rough. We anchored far outside the bar and the negroes were brought to the ship in a steam launch loaded by means of a great basket. This basket was about as large around as a hoghead and about ten feet in height. There was a hole on one side through which the negroes, to the number of a dozen at a time, stepped into this. The door was closed, and then the basket, negroes and all, was hoisted by means of a derrick to our steamer.

The human freight howled out in unison as it rose, and the men thought they were killed when the basket came down with a thud on the deck. During our stay we took about two score such basketfuls of ebony humanity, making something like 200 negroes in all. I was told that the men would be taken to Delagoa Bay, and thence shipped in by rail to the mines of the Rand. They are employed on short time contracts, and as a rule serve only a few months, when they are anxious to go back home. The Chinese came in on these years' contracts, with the privilege of extending them to six years. They have made much better laborers than the Africans, who, as a rule, wish to stop labor as soon as they have accumulated enough money to buy an extra wife or so, who can work for and support them at home.

A Night at Bamboo Creek.

I stopped at Bamboo Creek on account of a washout on the railroad going into Rhodesia, and traveled all day from Beira, on the Indian Ocean, passing through lands largely covered with water. It had been raining for a week or so, and the country is now flooded. Some of the bridges have been swept away, and the road is so unsafe that the engineers do not dare to go over it at night. The result is that our party is landed here in the wilds. There is no town excepting a shanty and this cotton plantation.

The hotel is a tin shanty of one story, with a bar-room in front, a dining-room at the side and a kitchen in the rear. The bar-room is filled with monuments of a hippopotamus, a large skull of a hippopotamus lies on one end of the counter, and there are lion skulls and leopard skulls among the whiskey and brandy bottles at the rear. At one end of the room is a stuffed zebra, with a stuffed leopard on top of him, and about the walls are the heads and horns of a dozen different kinds of antelopes. The bartender, a hippopotamus hide, whips and canes at extravagant prices, and offers to lend me his rifle if I care to shoot big game. He says there are no end of rhinos and hippos near by, and a lion can be found in the night by going within a few miles of the hotel. I have not yet decided to go.

"Sweet Marie" in Black Africa.

We were a curious party as we came into the hotel for supper, and our entertainment was interesting. In the first place, we had the chief engineer of the Rhodesia railways, and with him a nephew of Lord Roberts who is also a civil engineer. We had another railroad official, who has charge of a line away up the Zambezi, in British Central Africa, and the American cotton planter of whom I have already spoken. Among the other travelers were a millionaire Wall Street broker, who is making a pleasure tour of Africa, an English commercial traveler and a South African miner, on his way to the mines.

We soon got acquainted, and after dinner we had a little entertainment in the tin shack, away out here in the wilds. The chief engineer played the organ and gave quite a concert, including among his selections a number of American songs. One of the best of these was "Sweet Marie," which was now sung for us by another engineer. After the songs we had big game

stories, including those of lion hunts, elephant hunts and struggles with poachers and thieves. Among these was a surprising tale about a crocodile which the Central African engineer had recently shot. He said the reptile was an old one, and that it had evidently been a great man-eater, for he had found forty-eight native bracelets and anklets in its stomach. His presumption was that the crocodile had eaten forty-eight negroes so ornamented, to say nothing of numerous others who had left their jewelry when they went to bathe.

Portuguese East Africa.

This is my first taste of Portuguese East Africa. I saw the country first at Chinde, and sailed for miles along the coast before I came to Beira. The territory is enormous.

It extends along the borders of the Indian Ocean for as far as from New York to Omaha, and stretches north goes inland as far as from Washington to Boston. It is larger than Texas, and it would make considerably more than six States the size of Ohio, Kentucky or Virginia. Its native population is estimated at 2,000,000 or 3,000,000, but no accurate census has been taken, and although the Portuguese have owned the country for more than 300 years, they know almost nothing about it. The greater part of it is a vast, unexplored wilderness to the Mozambique Company and another part to the company of the Zambesi. Beira belongs to the Mozambique Company, and the company fixes the taxes and pays Portugal for the privilege of exploiting the town. It runs the post-office and sells its own postage stamps.

The Pranzo System.

It farms out the natives and makes them pay taxes, which in some cases they work out by giving their labor to foreigners. This is known as the pranzo system. The country is divided up into districts known as pranzas. These are put up at auction, the successful bidder having the right to collect the taxes of his pranza for a term of three years.

He is allowed to levy a tax of so much on each native and he must pay that amount in cash or work. The contractor has also the right to force the people to do a certain amount of the public roads, and on house building for the officials. He has also other rights which make the system little more than a legalized slavery. The taxes are often paid in goods, and the value of their work is measured by American or English cotton cloth, the price of which can be regulated largely by the collector. A part of the labor is the hunting of elephants and the gathering of rubber, both of which are sold for profit. I am told that the abuses of such men, in the far-away districts, are terrible, and that the people have comparatively few rights that the tax collectors are bound to respect. It is said that slavery is still common in some regions, although it is not recognized by the government and is contrary to law. The conditions are not as bad in Portuguese West Africa, where slaves are still bought and sold, but they are bad enough.

Mozambique a Back Number.

The cities of Portuguese East Africa are banking. It is used to be that Mozambique was by far the most important. Situated on a little island, in the wide channel between Africa and Madagascar, it was for years one of the great ports of the continent. It was a centre of the slave trade and the residence of the chief Portuguese officials. The country has two capitals, one at Mozambique at the north, and the other at Lourenço Marques at the south. Mozambique is still the headquarters of the Mozambique system, and its operations are conducted from there. Lourenço Marques is the chief commercial centre, and with its magnificent harbor and its proximity to the goldfields, it is fast becoming one of the most important cities on the east coast of Africa.

Mozambique lies on a little island only a quarter of a mile wide and not more than a mile long. It is close to the mainland, and canoes are always used to carry goods and carrying food and supplies. The island is covered with houses. It has clean sidewalks and paved with cement, and its roads are well maintained.

It has a fort and public buildings, but now the streets are practically deserted. Many of the good houses are vacant, and others have been turned into the homes of coolies and petty trading stores. The bazaars in which the slaves were exposed for sale have disappeared, and the town is practically dead.

The city of Beira is not as prosperous as it has been in the past. It has been hit hard since the Boer War, and now has 60,000 whites, about 1,500 negroes and a considerable number of East Indians. It is a town of banks, stores and hotels, it has a street-car line, but the cars are little more than wheelbarrows, each large enough to hold two persons, and they are loaded with the tracks by negroes, who pull them along behind.

Lourenço Marques, on the other hand, is rapidly growing. It is lighted by electricity, and there are lines of electric tramways which connect its various sections. It has a new post-office, a new railway station, and many new buildings. The great marsh at the back of the city has been drained, and the mosquito plague is practically exterminated. The town is rapidly becoming the chief port for the Transvaal, and it is where our American goods for that region are now landed. The city has one of the best harbors on the African Continent. It is known as Delagoa Bay. It is twenty miles wide, and it reminds one of Manila Bay in its extent. Indeed, it could contain at one time all the ships which come to Africa, and have room to spare.

Lourenço Marques began to grow when the railroad connecting it with Johannesburg was built. This was about thirteen years ago, and its progress has been steady from then until now. It is by far the nearest route

from the sea to the gold fields. The distance from Johannesburg is only 334 miles, while from Durban, the chief port of Natal, farther south, is 483 miles, and from Cape Town more than 1,000 miles. The Portuguese Government has been doing much to improve the harbor. They have built a quay almost half a mile long, and have equipped it with all modern conveniences for loading and unloading vessels. They have built great warehouses, and have also constructed a dry dock and other marine works.

THE TOBACCO CROP

Conflicting Reports as to Its Condition.—Sales in North Carolina.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

DANVILLE, VA., July 11.—There have been no sales of loose leaf on the warehouse floors this week, except a load now and then, which has been too insignificant to interest the buyers.

Reports from the growing crop are conflicting and generally somewhat unfavorable. In some sections there are complaints of too much rain, and the tobacco is "buttoning" in consequence, while in a few others there appears not to have been enough rain. On the whole, however, the complaints are perhaps not serious enough to cause alarm.

Redried tobaccos are fairly active, and all the dealers report something doing, but no large sales. Prices hold firm.

Lynchburg Reports Favorable.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

LYNCHBURG, VA., July 11.—The tobacco sales were so light during the past week on the local market that the statisticians made no report of the aggregate sales.

Reports from the Lynchburg district shows the coming crop is topping nicely, and that it could hardly be in better condition.

Sales in North Carolina.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

RALEIGH, N. C., July 11.—Less than half of the leaf tobacco markets in North Carolina reported sales for the month of June, according to the official statement and summary of sales issued to-day by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, the total sales first-hand in the State being 42,552, with a grand total, including sold by dealers and resold for the warehouses, of 57,011 pounds. All sales reported were "first-hand," except 3,648 for dealers and 9,390 resold for warehouses at Winston-Salem, and 423 pounds for dealers at Oxford. The first-hand sales reported were: Winston-Salem, 14,769; Durham, 11,016; Reidsville, 9,504; Mt. Airy, 3,785; Oxford, 2,087; Madison, 929; Warrenton, 923; Stoneville, 539.

Financial.

LADIES WELCOME HERE.

The details of banking, as conducted by The Savings Bank of Richmond are so simplified and easy that what used to be looked on as irksome is now a pleasure. This is especially interesting to the ladies, who have no trouble whatever in dealing with this popular institution.

Of course, every depositor of this bank is accorded the same courteous treatment. No one is slighted, no matter how small the account or the transactions. But special care is taken in the ladies' department to render prompt and efficient service.

Interest is paid on all deposits of one dollar or more, and is compounded semi-annually. Thus money, put in the Savings Bank of Richmond is constantly earning something for the depositor. She has the privilege of withdrawing her money when she wants it, and there is no loss of satisfaction in knowing that her money is in the care of a perfectly safe and reliable institution, examined regularly, with assets of \$1,600,000, and managed by men of sterling character and highest standing in the social and financial circles of Richmond.

Remember that one dollar will start an account with this bank. Why not stop in to-morrow morning? 1117 East Main Street.

The Bank of Sussex and Surry

WAKEFIELD, VIRGINIA.
(Established 1902.)

CAPITAL - \$25,000
Surplus and Undivided Profits - \$37,500
Deposits - \$350,000

P. D. Bain, president; Edward Rogers, vice-president; F. D. Fulmer, president; W. H. Savage, cashier; P. B. Richardson, cashier at Ivor; E. M. Richardson, cashier at Dendron.

Four Per Cent. Paid on Time Deposits.

Branch, Cabell & Co.,
BANKERS,
1115 East Main Street.

Members New York Stock Exchange, New York Cotton Exchange and Chicago Board of Trade.

Bank of Commerce and Trusts

9TH AND MAIN STREETS.

Capital, - \$200,000.00

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Solicits accounts of individuals, firms and corporations.
3 per cent. interest allowed on savings accounts.
Authorized by charter to act as Executor, Registrar, Guardian, Receiver, etc.

BANK OF WAVERLY,

WAVERLY, VIRGINIA.

THE OLDEST BANK IN SUSSEX COUNTY.
IT IS ON THE ROLL OF HONOR.

Capital - \$25,000
Surplus and Undivided Profits - \$44,000
Deposits - \$306,500
Total Resources - \$375,500

P. FLEETWOOD, President; J. F. WEST, Vice-president; H. FLEETWOOD, Cashier; W. E. WEST, Assistant Cashier; J. P. BAIRD, Teller.

All Accommodations Consistent With Safe, Conservative Banking Are Extended to Its Patrons.

Four Per Cent. Paid on Time Deposits.

The Bank of Jarratts

JARRATT, VA.

Authorized Capital, \$25,000

Safe, Liberal, Courteous and Progressive.
Accounts from one dollar up solicited. We pay 4 per cent. on savings and time deposits.

OFFICERS—O. C. Wright, president; R. Jarratt, vice-president; J. M. Browder, cashier.
DIRECTORS—O. C. Wright, R. E. Jarratt, R. W. Jordan, F. L. Pedneau, S. H. Short, J. H. Grant, Joe D. Prince, G. T. Parridge, L. M. Crenth, C. M. Brown, J. E. Versen.

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The best place to keep it meanwhile is in the

Oldest, Strongest and Safest Savings Bank in the South.

Interest compounded for you twice a year at 3 per cent.

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Surplus and Undivided Profits, \$150,000

Would be pleased to receive the accounts of corporations, firms and individuals. Interest allowed on deposits in Savings Department.

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